Construction Advisory

CA 2007-09

From Brenda O'Brien, Engineer of Construction and Technology

MDOT-Construction and Technology Division P.O. Box 30049 Lansing, Michigan 48909 Phone/517-322-1087 Fax/517-322-5664 www.michigan.gov/mdot/

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Questions regarding this Construction Advisory should be directed to:

Jeff Grossklaus, Construction Staff Engineer - Traffic and Safety, at 517-322-5769 or grossklausjr@michigan.gov



4 ft x 4 ft Temporary Portable Sign

The Frequently Used Special Provision for Temporary Signs permits the use of the FHWA accepted 4 ft x 4 ft diamond sign design, designated as WZ-74, using a substrate made of ½ inch thick plywood. The FHWA WZ-74 acceptance letter only mentions aluminum and plastic sign substrates. Based on other testing with a 7 ft sign bottom height, the FHWA has determined that ½ inch plywood reacts similarly when compared to corrugated polypropylene and polyethylene plastic substrates, with a thickness of 0.4 inch (SafetyCor is the brand mentioned in WZ-74) or 0.080 inch thick aluminum during a crash test. Therefore, it

is acceptable for use.

The WZ-74 designated sign does not require a Type A light on the corner if the sign sheeting is prismatic. Intermixing of WZ-74 designated 4 ft by 4 ft diamond signs and other NCHRP 350 accepted designs requiring a Type A light are permitted.

Please share this information with consultants and local agencies in your area.

BJO:JKG